

To: House Business and Labor Committee
Presented by: Lorena Pettet, Physical Therapist
representing Montana Chapter of American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)
Vice President of Occupational Health Physical Therapy Special Interest Group of APTA
RE: HB 334 – 01/31/2011

The Montana Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association proposes **an amendment to New Section 18, Line 12 (page 34) adding “a physical therapist” to this list of providers who can provide “Stay at work/return to work services.”**

Background:

Guidelines: Physical Therapist in Occupational Health - American Physical Therapy Association “The physical therapist in occupational health evaluates data from tests and measures to determine. . . interventions to alleviate work-related risk factors, impairments, activity limitations, participation restrictions, or other health-related conditions which prevent an individual from performing their occupational pursuits. Interventions include functional training designed to return the individual to work as quickly and efficiently as possible.”

Taken from WorkSafe MT: “Stay at Work/Return to Work (SAW/RTW) programs make a big difference. The goal of these programs is to help injured workers return to meaningful work as fits their medical condition as soon as possible. These programs have shown to improve recovery times, reduce complications, reduce psychological distress and keep careers on track.

Transitional Duties — A good SAW/RTW program incorporates transitional work that is both meaningful and medically appropriate. For example, while a worker may not be able to lift boxes, he or she may be able to count inventory or assess the value of damaged inventory. Options for transitional duties should be determined as soon as possible and thoroughly discussed with the injured worker and his/her healthcare provider.